

Frequently Asked Questions

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The Basics

What is a CBA?

A Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) is a legal contract between parties associated with the development of a project where a developer agrees to certain funding or other performance obligations in exchange for the support of a local municipality, community, or NGO. CBAs are well known and encouraged by organizations like the Department of Energy. In this case, Tallgrass and Bold Alliance's CBA is associated with Tallgrass's Trailblazer carbon dioxide project (Trailblazer).

Who signed the CBA?

The CBA was signed by Tallgrass, Bold Alliance, and Bold Education Fund (the parent entity of Bold Nebraska). It's important to note that 11 key community organizations and associations also signed this agreement as supporters. By signing, the supporters agree with the initiatives Tallgrass and Bold Alliance outline in the CBA but have no legal commitments associated with this agreement.

About Tallgrass

Tallgrass is an infrastructure company that's called Nebraska "home" for over a decade – we have more than 100 Nebraskan employees who operate over 2,000 miles of pipelines in the state. Outside of Nebraska, we have more than 1,000 employees who operate over 10,000 miles of infrastructure stretching from Ohio to Oregon and from North Dakota down to South Texas. You can learn more about Tallgrass by visiting our website — [Tallgrass.com](https://www.tallgrass.com)

About Bold Alliance

Bold Alliance builds unlikely alliances to protect the land and water. Bold Alliance works on issues including eminent domain, clean energy, water, and prioritizing family farms and ranches. To learn more about Bold Alliance, you can visit their website — [BoldAlliance.org](https://www.boldalliance.org)

Understanding the CBA

What are some highlights of the CBA?

The commitments outlined in the CBA have three primary categories: landowner protections, public safety, and community investment.

This landmark agreement sets a new precedent for pipeline infrastructure by establishing a series of community initiatives as well as creating rigorous landowner rights protections throughout the pipeline's life cycle, from early project development through easement negotiations, operations, and decommissioning.

Other near and long-term benefits provisioned by the CBA include:

- A \$500,000 funding commitment to nonprofits in the counties associated with the project.
- A \$400,000 funding commitment to equip first responders throughout the development of the project, as well as ongoing annual funding to support replenishing and replacing essential equipment once the project is operational.
- There is a \$200,000 funding commitment to train first responders as the project comes online, as well as an annual obligation, once operational, to provide public safety notifications to the families who live along the pipeline right of way.
- A requirement, at the time of decommissioning, that the easements are returned to landowners who may elect to have the pipeline abandoned in place or removed from their property.

Why did you sign the CBA?

Bold Alliance and Tallgrass negotiated this agreement to address key areas of feedback that both parties have gained from their engagement with landowners, community members, and other key stakeholders. Throughout the negotiation process, it became clear that a legal agreement, like this CBA, would provide an ideal way to solidify the commitments, address the feedback and demonstrate accountability.

How long does the agreement last?

Certain provisions of the CBA conclude as the project enters commercial service, while others remain in place for the life of the project.

What happens if the agreement is breached?

If either party believes that the other is non-compliant with its obligations, there is a written notice process followed by a 60-day period for resolving the issue.

How would this affect landowners who have already signed easements?

For landowners who have already signed easement agreements, their existing contracts will remain in effect under their current terms; however, they will receive the royalty payment outlined in the CBA.

About Trailblazer

What is Trailblazer?

Trailblazer is a 400-mile natural gas pipeline that Tallgrass has owned and operated for over a decade. It begins in Beatrice, Nebraska and terminates in Southeast Wyoming, running parallel to another natural gas pipeline Tallgrass owns in the state, the Rockies Express Pipeline. Last year, Trailblazer received approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to provide service to its natural gas customers through a capacity lease on the Rockies Express Pipeline and to remove most of Trailblazer's pipeline system from natural gas service, allowing us to use that Trailblazer pipeline to transport carbon dioxide gas (CO₂) as a way to support Nebraska's biofuel industry.

How does the project work?

CO₂ is a byproduct of the ethanol production process – and capturing, transporting, and storing that CO₂ enables Nebraska's ethanol industry to create low carbon, high value biofuels and feedstocks that can be used to access growing domestic and international markets, including the sustainable aviation fuel market.

Today, all of the CO₂ produced during the fermentation process at Nebraska's ethanol facilities is safely released into the air - with carbon capture and sequestration (CCS), those emissions will be transported via pipeline and stored thousands of feet below ground.

Why is Trailblazer important to Nebraska?

The market for Nebraska's biofuels (and, by extension, Nebraska's corn) is shifting. Consumers around the globe are seeking a product with a lower carbon intensity, and Trailblazer helps Nebraska's biofuels supply that demand.

Trailblazer Quick Facts

- Trailblazer can transport and store more than 10 million metric tons of CO₂ annually. Sequestering this amount of CO₂ would be equivalent to eliminating the emissions of over two million passenger vehicles.
- Trailblazer will be a ~\$1.5 billion investment in Nebraska, bringing 60+ new full-time jobs and 4,500+ construction jobs across the project area.